[For information on Abipon grammar, see also Category 116, pp. 162-168, 172-184, 188-193, 195-198, and 204-205. -- Analyst]

1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipon 514

121 and it is to comply with the desire of these persons that I am going to treat compendiously of the Abiponian language.

194 *192 Most of the Americans want some letter which we Europeans use, and use some which we want. A letter of very frequent occurrence amongst the Abipones, but which we Europeans are unacquainted with, is one which has the mixed sound of R and G. To pronounce it properly, the tongue must be slided a little along the roof of the mouth, and brought towards the throat, in the manner of those persons who have a natural incapacity of pronouncing the letter R. To signify this peculiar letter of the Abipones, we have written R or G indiscriminately, but distinguished by a certain mark, thus: *Laetaŕat*, a son: *Achibiŕaik*, salt. The plural number [193] changes R into K, thus: *Laetkáte*, sons. Europeans find much difficulty in pronouncing this letter, especially if it recur several times in the same word, as in *Raŕegŕanŕaik*, a Vilela Indian. *Rellaŕanŕan potrôl*, he hunts wild horses. *Laṕŕiŕatŕaik*, many-coloured. The Abipones can distinguish an European, however well-skilled in every other part of their language, by the pronunciation of this letter.

The Abipones use the ö, which the Paraguayrians write ë with two dots, like the French, Hungarians, and Germans: as *Ahëpegak*, a